



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

and the Methods of Cotton Cultivation." This chapter is almost the only one in which Dr. von Halle confines himself strictly to his subject. He gives here a thorough discussion of the influence which cotton culture had upon the distribution and concentration of the slave population of the South, of the methods of employing this labor and of cultivating the soil, of the size and management of Southern landed estates, and of the influence which cotton raising had upon the price of slaves and on their movement southward from the border states. The text is illustrated throughout with well-arranged statistical matter compiled mainly from the censuses of 1850 and 1860.

In Chapter X the author has supplemented his historical and descriptive account of Southern conditions by a discussion of the slavery theories of various writers, European and Northern, as well as Southern. He reviews in an interesting manner the theories of De Tocqueville, Harriet Martineau, Carey, Cairnes, Calhoun, McCay and Helper, as well as those of many minor writers, whose bombastic rhapsodies do not really deserve the serious consideration which he gives them. Finally, in Chapter XI, the author gives an account of the "System and Effects of Plantation Agriculture."

Dr. von Halle has an extensive acquaintance with the literature of his subject, and not the least service which his book can be made to render to future students of Southern institutions and history will be that of acting as a guidebook to Southern *ante-bellum* literature. If the author seems at times to attach too much importance to the writings of both the defenders and the opponents of the slave system during the heated controversy over this subject, it must be said that his statements are usually exact and his conclusions warranted by the evidence. There are a few historical blunders, as, for instance, on page 199 (note 4), where it is stated that the petitions for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia were presented by "Expräsident Charles Francis Adams."

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS.

M. B. HAMMOND.

The Liquor Problem in its Legislative Aspects. By FREDERIC H. WINES and JOHN KOREN. Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1897. — vi, 342 pp.

In the year 1889 fifteen gentlemen who were interested in questions of progress began to meet from time to time and to exchange opinions on various social topics. Among the papers read and discussed at these meetings, and afterwards published, were President

Seth Low's essay on "The Government of Cities in the United States" and Professor William M. Sloane's on "Pensions and Socialism." In 1893 this group decided to enlarge its membership to fifty, and to make a systematic investigation of the liquor problem in the United States. Four sub-committees of this "Committee of Fifty" were appointed to report, one on the physiological, one on the legislative, one on the economic and one on the moral aspects of the question. The sub-committee on the legislative aspects consisted of Charles W. Eliot, Seth Low and James C. Carter. These gentlemen appointed Messrs. Wines and Koren to conduct the investigation. The present volume is the substance of their report.

The investigation took a wide range. Inquiries were made in many different sections of the country, and concerning all the important systems of legal regulation of the liquor traffic that have here been tried. A full account is presented of the history and practical value of prohibition in Maine and Iowa, of the South Carolina dispensary system, of the restrictive system in Massachusetts, of the high license system in Pennsylvania, of the Ohio and Indiana laws and of the Missouri local option law. The work has evidently been done with great care. No important fact has been overlooked, and no attempt has been made to find in the evidence a support for any view or policy. The criticism throughout is discriminating, and the inferences are those which any dispassionate judgment must draw from the data. No such review of the whole case for and against legislative control of the sale of intoxicating drinks has ever before been made, and nowhere else can the conscientious voter find so clearly and so fully presented the information that he requires to enable him to see his duty.

The three gentlemen of the sub-committee have themselves made a summary statement of results and inferences which they unite in signing. Prohibition, they declare, has been partly successful but largely a failure, and has brought with it many concomitant evils, particularly a distrust of local self-government and a centralizing tendency. Local option has much to commend it, but the Massachusetts plan of annual voting on the question is inferior to that of Missouri, where the issue can be raised only once in four years. The licensing system in all its forms is open to grave political objections; no other plan does so much to keep the liquor traffic in politics. A tax law, like that of Ohio, is so far an improvement. Almost every sort of liquor legislation, however, creates some specific evil in politics.

Wherever high-paid offices are created by liquor legislation, those offices become the objects of political contention. When a multitude of offices are created in the execution of liquor laws, they furnish the means of putting together a strong political machine. Just this has happened under the dispensary system in South Carolina, where a machine of great capacity for political purposes has been created in a short time, with the governor of the state as its engineer. . . . The activity of liquor dealers' associations in municipal politics all over the United States is in one sense an effect of the numerous experiments in liquor legislation which have been in progress during the last thirty years. The traffic, being attacked by legislation, tries to protect itself by controlling municipal and state legislators.

The committee concludes that "it cannot be positively affirmed that any one kind of liquor legislation has been more successful than another in promoting real temperance"; but that, nevertheless, "the wise course for the community at large is to strive after all external, visible improvements, even if it be impossible to prove that internal, fundamental improvement accompanies them." To this they might well have added — what their volume clearly demonstrates — that the only "external, visible improvements" which experience has shown to be such in fact as well as in name are the products of moderate measures that have aimed at maintaining order and decency rather than at a transformation of human nature or at the realization of utopias.

FRANKLIN H. GIDDINGS.

La disoccupazione e l'assicurazione degli operai. Da C. F. FERRARIS. Roma, Nuova Antologia, 1897.

The question of the unemployed is one of permanent interest. While, on the one hand, the expedients for giving employment and for satisfying the most urgent needs of the situation are multiplying in all countries, on the other hand grave questions as to the causes and the remedies of enforced idleness are bringing about wide researches on the part of students. Among the most recent publications on the question is that of Professor Ferraris, of the University of Padua, who has profited by the ample literature that already exists on the subject, and who sums up with much clearness and vigor the principal causes of the lack of employment, examining the remedies that have been tried in the chief countries and treating in a fresh, broad way the newer arguments for the adoption of the system of insurance against unemployment.